World Mayors' Conference

3399. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kochi declaration adopted at the World Mayors' Conference held recently resolved to strive for poverty alleviation etc.;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the conference had also decided to allocate resources for implementation of city targets focusing on slums and other vulnerable groups; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Kochi Declaration resolved to strive to closely look at the Millenium Development Goals with regard to poverty alleviation etc. Government of India in its Tenth Five Year Plan has fixed the monitorable targets of reduction of poverty ratio by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012. Through Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), an employment oriented urban poverty alleviation programme being implemented by Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation, the Government strives to provide enterprises as well as skill upgradation training to the urban poor. Under SJSRY, in the Tenth Plan, targets for setting up of 4,00,000 micro-enterprises and skill upgradation of 5,00,000 urban poor in a period of five years has been fixed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Kochi Declaration also resolved to commit and allocate resources for the implementation of city targets focusing on slums and other vulnerable groups. The Government is committed towards a comprehensive urban renewal and to a massive expansion of social housing in towns and cities particularly paying attention to the needs of slum dwellers. Under Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), housing and sanitation needs of the slum dwellers are already being addressed in a targeted manner by covering at least one lakh slum families annually who are provided security of tenure and basic sanitation facilities.